

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Noboru MAKI et al.  
Title: HBV PRECORE PROTEIN HAVING A  
PARTICLE-FORMING ABILITY  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: 03/07/2005  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present National Stage Application, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: